

U.S. Census Bureau News

U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, DC 20230

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10:00 A.M. EST TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2007

For information contact:

Nick Orsini (301) 763-6959
Vanessa Ware (301) 763-2311

CB07-28, FT-900A (01-07)

Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products January 2007

The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that preliminary January steel imports were **\$2.1 billion (2.4 million** metric tons compared to the preliminary December totals of \$2.4 billion (2.7 million metric tons).

The December to January change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in cold rolled sheets and hot rolled sheets. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Taiwan and Korea. An increase occurred primarily with Canada.

The year to date final statistics through December 2006 showed steel imports of 41.1 million metric tons compared to 29.1 million metric tons through December 2005. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; hot rolled sheets; and cold rolled sheets. The largest country increases were with China, Russia, and Taiwan. The largest country decreases were with Mexico and Venezuela.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is March 27, 2007.